

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /022 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS:SPOULAIN:HHB

APPROVED BY S/PRS - ROBERT L. FUNSETH

S/S - MR. LUERS

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O 131822Z FEB 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 033153

TOSEC 191

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: COMBINED WIRE AND NEWSPAPER REPORT - FEBRUARY 13
MORNING

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

NO. 15

WIRES

1. DAMASCUS (AP) -- HAK CONCLUDED "VERY POSITIVE" TALKS
TODAY WITH SADAT ON AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IN SINAI AND
FLEW HERE SEEKING SYRIA'S SUPPORT.

"WE ARE STILL IN BUSINESS," HAK TOLD NEWSMEN BEFORE MEETING
WITH ASSAD.

PRIVATELY, U.S. OFFICIALS SAID SYRIA WAS NOT OPPOSED TO A
SECOND STAGE AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL AND MIGHT
ACTUALLY FAVOR ANOTHER GOLAN HEIGHTS ACCORD.

SIGNIFICANTLY, AN EDITORIAL IN THE OFFICIAL SYRIAN
GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER AL THAWRA CALLED FOR MILITANCY
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WHETHER THE POLITICAL ENDEAVORS GO TO GENEVA OR STAY HERE."

UNTIL NOW SYRIA HAS CONSISTANTLY DEMANDED AN IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE.

A SENIOR AMERICAN DIPLOMAT SAID FURTHER SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS WAS UNLIKELY BEFORE HAK RETURNS TO THE REGION AROUND MARCH 10. STOPPING FIRST IN CAIRO, HE PLANS TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS THEN OF A SIZEABLE ISRAELI PULLBACK IN EXCHANGE FOR MOVES BY EGYPT TOWARD ACCEPTANCE OF THE JEWISH STATE.

U.S. OFFICIALS SAID AN AGREEMENT WOULD INVOLVE A DOCUMENT SIGNED BY BOTH EGYPT AND ISRAEL. BUT THESE OFFICIALS WOULD NOT GO INTO DETAIL EXCEPT TO HINT THAT ONE ELEMENT OF THE SETTLEMENT WOULD INVOLVE REPLACING THE OIL ISRAEL WOULD LOSE BY GIVING UP THE ISRAELI-OCCUPIED ABU RUDEIS OIL FIELDS.

IN A CEREMONY AT TAHRA PALACE, HAK AND FM FAHMY SIGNED AN AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH THE U.S. WILL LEND EGYPT \$80 MILLION TO FINANCE IMPORTS OF AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT, SPARE PARTS AND OTHER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES. THE LOANS ARE REPAYABLE OVER 40 YEARS AT 2 PERCENT, WITH A 10-YEAR GRACE PERIOD.

IN A STATEMENT AT CAIRO AIRPORT HAK SAID HE CONSIDERED HIS TALKS WITH SADAT TO HVE BEEN "VERY POSITIVE". HAK ADDED: "WE HAD A VERY EXTENSIVE REVIEW OF ALL ELEMENTS THAT ARE INVOLVED IN PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. I LOOK FORWARD TO COMING BACK HERE IN A FEW WEEKS."

2. DAMASCUS (UPI) -- HAK FLEW TO SYRIA TODAY FROM CAIRO, SAYING HIS TALKS WITH SADAT WERE "VERY POSITIVE" AND HIS MIDDLE EAST PEACE MISSION WAS "STILL IN BUSINESS."

A SENIOR OFFICIAL ABOARD HAK'S PLANE SAID THE SECRETARY'S MISSION WAS THE MOST DIFFICULT SO FAR OF ALL HIS SHUTTLE-DIPLOMACY TOURS OF THE MIDDLE EAST.

THE OFFICIAL SAID THE EGYPTIANS AND THE ISRAELIS WERE FAR APART ON TERMS FOR A SECOND-STAGE TROOP PULLOUT IN UNCLASSIFIED

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SINAI BUT AGREEMENT WAS NOT HOPELESS.

HAK MET WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFEZ ASSAD SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVING IN DAMASCUS. A HIGH AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAID NO NEW NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA WOULD BE STARTED, BUT INSTEAD THE TWO MEN WOULD GIVE A BROAD REVIEW OF THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION.

IN CAIRO, AFTER FINISHING A MEETING WITH SADAT, HAK SAID
BEFORE BOARDING HIS AIRLINER, "I CONSIDER THE TALKS
WERE VERY POSITIVE."

A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAID HAK WILL REPORT TO ISRAELI
LEADERS IN DETAIL ON SADAT'S POSITION TONIGHT IN
JERUSALEM, BUT HE SAID HE DID NOT EXPECT ANY ANSWER FROM
THEM NOW.

THE OFFICIAL SAID HAK WILL FLY TO JORDAN FRIDAY AND TO
SAUDI ARABIA BEFORE RETURNING TO THE ME EARLY NEXT
MONTH, AFTER THE ISRAELIS AND THE EGYPTIANS HAVE HAD TIME
TO PONDER POSSIBLE COMPROMISES.

THE SENIOR OFFICIAL SAID THAT WHILE EGYPT AND ISRAEL WERE
FAR APART ON TERMS OF AN ISRAELI PULLBACK IN THE SINAI
DESERT, HAK WOULD NOT BE RETURNING TO THE AREA IF HE
FELT THE SITUATION WAS HOPELESS.

THE OFFICIAL ALSO SAID HE BELIEVED THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD
HAVE TO SIGN SOME AGREEMENTS, BUT HE REFUSED TO SPECULATE
ON THEIR NATURE. ...

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE033153
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SPOULAIN:HHB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750053-0086
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750245/aaaabodp.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2003 by RuthemTJ>; APPROVED <12 JAN 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMBINED WIRE AND NEWSPAPER REPORT - FEBRUARY 13 MORNING
TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: JERUSALEM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006